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New Right says George Shultz must be replaced

Sights set on foreign policy after the social issues lose their allure

By George Archibald
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New Right political organizations, which have devoted most of their energies to family issues and efforts to cut the size of government, are refocusing their sights on foreign policy and anti-communism, say grass-roots leaders.

The immediate aim is to forge a rightist coalition that will force the Reagan administration to respond to conservative foreign policy

demands — starting with replacement of Secretary of State George Shultz, who they say "has been co-opted" by State Department "compromisers".

Paul Erickson, political director for direct-mail fund-raiser Richard A. Viguerie who is co-ordinating the new effort, says that, by starting a national debate on the U.S. foreign service, the long-term goal is to end the power of career State Department bureaucrats and restore the president's day-to-day control over foreign policy.

But while confirming that conservatives generally have been frustrated by what they perceive as timid or weak policies of the administration on the international scene as measured against the rhetoric of President Reagan, several New Right activists say that the new foreign policy initiative is prompted as much by the movement's need for a fresh offensive to remotivate its grass-roots network.

"There's only so much you can do to get people charged up about abortion, school prayer, balanced budgets and all the rest that we've been pushing for since Ronald Reagan's

election," said one movement leader, who asked not to be identified.

Many of those campaigns achieved limited success, and the administration's focus has shifted more to world issues, such as the terrorist threat, this leader says.

"We've needed a fresh campaign for a long time that will get our troops jumping again," he said.

The movement's dwindling finances and the need to replenish the coffers of New Right organizations also have prompted the initiative, said another Washington activist.

"Let's face it. We've started a lot of new [conservative] organizations and expanded others around town [that] need to get the money rolling in again to keep going."

Another leader said the movement's "need for resurgency and new fund-raising copy is somewhat irrelevant to the basic problem."

Secretary Shultz "has shown himself to be a creature of the foreign policy apparatus," drawing harsh criticism from several Reagan-appointed former ambassadors, that leader said. "You have to treat it as a real serious and timely problem."

Mr. Viguerie will kick off the effort today at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill, where he and other leaders are holding a five-hour "urgent review of American foreign policy."

Other organizers are Morton Blackwell, a former Reagan aide who heads the Committee for Responsible Youth Politics; John T. (Terry) Dolan, director of the National Conservative Political Action Committee; Ronald Godwin, executive vice president of Moral Majority; Ted Pantaleo, director of the Christian Unity Political Action Committee; Howard Phillips, chairman of the Conservative Caucus; John Pucciano, political director for the Veritas Corp.; and Paul M. Weyrich, director of the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress.

"For too long, conservatives have stood by while the foreign policy establishment has imposed its own views on our government," Mr. Viguerie said in a letter this week to several thousand New Right activists invited to the conference.

"Elections come and go, but it seems that the same narrow ideology always prevails in the corridors of the State Department," he

wrote. "Unless we act now, we will lose a golden opportunity to replace anti-Reagan zealots in the State Department with advocates of the common-sense policies enunciated during the president's 1976, 1980 and 1984 campaigns."

The conference "promises to be a new beginning for conservative involvement in the formulation of U.S. foreign policy," Mr. Viguerie wrote. "This is the first time since the election of Ronald Reagan that conservative leaders have united behind such an effort."

Three former ambassadors have called for Mr. Shultz's removal. They are David B. Funderburk, U.S. envoy to Romania from 1981 to 1985; Charles M. Lichenstein, deputy U.S. ambassador to the United Nations from 1981 to 1984; and Curtin Winsor Jr., U.S. envoy to Costa Rica from 1983 to 1985.

Messrs. Lichenstein, Winsor and Evan G. Galbraith, who resigned last month after 3½ years as U.S. ambassador to France, will speak on reforming the Foreign Service at tomorrow's conference session. Also

on the panel will be James T. Hackett, editor of National Security Record, a publication of the Heritage Foundation.

Mr. Funderburk will serve on a panel entitled "How the State Department Aids the Soviet Empire." Another panelist will be Jack Wheeler, director of the Freedom Research Council in Malibu, Calif., who has just returned from fighting with forces of the Mozambique resistance.

Sen. Malcolm Wallop, R-Wyo., a former member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, will open the conference with an overview of U.S. foreign policy. Also scheduled to participate are Sens. Gordon Humphrey, R-N.H., and Steve Symms, R-Idaho, and Reps. Philip M. Crane, R-Ill., Mark Siljander, R-Mich., and Robert Dornan, R-Calif.

The Rev. Ndabezinhle Musa of South Africa, a former member of the Soviet KGB's worldwide assassination squad called "wet operations," and John Rees, editor of an intelligence publication called Information Digest, will conduct a session on terrorism.

Separate panels on Afghanistan, southern Africa and Central America are also scheduled.